



# University Liggett School

## School Closed Friday, March 13 & COVID update

Dear University Liggett School Community Members:

I am writing to update you on University Liggett School's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as we approach our Spring Break, which runs from March 14 – March 29, with a planned return to school on Monday, March 30. Since our last update, several cases of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Michigan and in Wayne County, specifically. Still, the risk of contracting the virus for any individual person remains low.

An increasing data set further suggests that the vast majority of those who contract the virus, especially children, adolescents, teenagers, and young adults, will experience mild to moderate symptoms and fully recover. Of course, we must, in our choices and behaviors, protect the health of all community members in the ULS family, especially those most at risk of complications: the elderly and individuals with underlying medical conditions.

We continue to actively monitor the latest recommendations and guidance from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), the [Michigan Department of Health and Human Services](#), and the [Wayne County Department of Health](#). The Michigan Department of Education is in regular contact with schools translating this guidance into specific recommendations.

Over the last 24 hours, the national situation and dialogue around this virus have evolved rapidly and dramatically. **Given this unpredictability, and out of an abundance of caution, we will close school tomorrow, Friday, March 13. This includes the cancellation of all athletic practices planned for Friday afternoon.** The building will be open and staff members will be present for students and families who need to retrieve items from the building.

Obviously, this dynamic and evolving situation will impact Spring Break travel plans. We encourage all families to examine their plans and to consider risks inherent in such travel, especially international travel and cruise ship travel and make contingency plans. The CDC has issued a Level 3 warning, which discourages all travel, for the countries of China, Iran, South Korea, and Italy. Anyone traveling to those countries runs the significant risk of limited or precluded reentry to the United States.

The CDC mandates a 14-day quarantine for all returning travelers from Level 3 countries and we will insist any families, faculty, and staff who ignore these warnings and choose to travel to these countries to complete that quarantine before they can return to school. We will do our best to accommodate homebound students in allowing them to complete work at a distance. Please also understand that the CDC travel warnings are evolving and may change while you are abroad. Last night's prohibition of international travel from the Schengen zone of Europe to the U.S. suggests that trips to these countries are also highly unpredictable and inherently risky.

We will engage in deep cleaning and disinfecting of the building and classrooms over Spring Break in anticipation of a return to normal activity on March 30.

We also acknowledge the possibility that our return to school is virtual and digital for some extended period of time, as has been announced at many colleges and universities. Our educational and technology leaders are developing age-appropriate virtual learning plans. We will finalize those plans over Spring Break and be ready to communicate specifics near the end of break as our options become clearer. We will remain vigilant, patient, and flexible and ask that you do the same.

Of course, the very best action we can all take now is to recommit to protective personal hygiene, especially washing or sanitizing hands regularly, avoiding touching the mouth, eyes, and face, and social distancing. Additionally, anyone experiencing symptoms that align with those of [COVID-19](#) should endeavor to remain isolated and seek medical attention and testing as appropriate.

Thank you for your flexibility. We will be in touch as future updates warrant.

Sincerely,

Bart Bronk  
Head of School

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